

# THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 38 January 13, 2000  
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## Student City

Montreal beats Boston as  
North America's  
post-secondary centre

Story, page 3

Canada

United  
States

Montreal

### NEWS—

*Private colleges: A fad that's sweeping  
Canada? - pg. 2*

### CULTURE—

*Paul Thomas Anderson's Magnolia  
brilliant but flawed - pg. 7*



# McGill Catches Nation-Wide Private College Fever

*Proposals for high-priced schools on the rise across the country*

BY JON BRICKER

American-style private college education is already taking hold across Canada, with a number of programs already in place and plans in the works in British Columbia, Ontario, and now right here at McGill — plans that have some saying the students are seeing the fallout from slashed public.

On Tuesday, faculty and student reps in Arts voted to establish a committee to look into plans for McGill College International, a private liberal-arts college with a price tag to students of almost \$30,000 a year. The vote saw McGill join a push for private post-secondary programs that is already being seen in Ontario as well as British Columbia, where a pair of former UBC administrators are waiting to break ground on the province's first private, non-religious university.

Libby Davies is a member of parliament for Vancouver East and NDP's critic on youth and education issues. She said that the onslaught of proposals for these colleges means that longtime fears of public-funding cuts undermining the public education system are finally being realized.

"It's moving forward full-steam now," said Davies. She says Canadians value a quality, publicly funded education system, but that cuts are making that system impossible to keep up. And by allowing private colleges to compete with public institutions, she explains, Canada is inviting a two-tier education system that divides haves from have nots and means better quality education for the rich, because pri-

vate programs would be able to offer more money to teachers and would have an easier time attracting lucrative corporate contracts.

"Privatization is increasingly spoken of because of shrinking public funding," Davies said.



NDP Youth and Education critic  
Libby Davies

Mark Veerkamp said he is especially concerned with a plan that is moving ahead in BC. The \$100-million private-college project being led by former UBC president David Strangway is looking to begin construction soon in Squamish, near Whistler.

"We're going to see a two-tier system develop like the one they have in the US," said Veerkamp, the BC chair for the Canadian Federation of Students. "It's not going to be a system that works for middle-class Canadians."

The BC proposal has sparked ire across

the province, but especially at the University of British Columbia, where the student society has accused Strangway and former Vice-President External Affairs Peter Ufford of working on the project while on the university's payroll, though both have now stepped down. The project also received a setback last month when landowners for the proposed site pulled support for the deal, citing environmental concerns. Critics have chastized the deal which includes space for market housing on land that some say could bring in millions for the college.

Although those heading the BC campaign could not be reached for comment, Strangway did respond to concerns about private universities attracting faculty away from public institutions when he spoke to the Canadian University Press last year. "We have no intention of selectively targeting UBC faculty, as we have the world to draw on. We will not, of course, exclude UBC faculty who have an interest," he said.

Whistler University will offer up arts and science degrees to about 800 students at tuition levels comparable with that at liberal-arts colleges in the US, making it the first institution of its kind in the province. Presently, BC boasts two Christian colleges and a host of American degree programs that are privately funded.

The province's government has said nothing on whether it would afford Whistler U status to grant Canadian degrees.

Two years ago, Alberta also introduced legislation to allow private degree-granting programs, while 1997 saw the University of

Toronto introduce a number of similar high-priced programs.

A leaked document allegedly tabled in Ontario last November by the province's education minister called for the introduction of fully privatised Ontario universities.

Though Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities Dianne Cunningham denied that private universities were a priority, she authored a 1992 document that called on legislators to open the door to private degree-granting programs. Bette Stephenson, a former Conservative education minister who is part of a group looking to set up a private university near Toronto, told The Globe and Mail in November that the ministers had offered the idea "totally positive" feedback.

A vote last month at a McGill Science Faculty Council meeting saw students and faculty reject taking the MCI proposal to the next level. But Tuesday's vote by Arts

Faculty Council brought McGill one step closer to its first private degree-granting program. The MCI plan, if approved, would see 3,000 students pay upwards of \$28,000 in tuition and would feature small classes, a focus on arts and science courses, and an opportunity for a four-month internship program.

The arts faculty will now make plans to create a formal committee to look into the MCI proposal in the months to come.

"I do think that the opinion of the meeting is that [the MCI] is worth thinking about it, not that any particular conclusion should be drawn, but that its worth thinking about it," said Sociology Professor and Arts Faculty Council Chair Michael Smith after the meeting.

*With files from Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, and Andrew Sunstrum.*

## Arts Faculty Votes to Explore Idea of Private College at McGill

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

Last Tuesday, the Arts Faculty Council voted in favour of creating a new committee that will look into the concept of a private college at McGill.

An ad hoc committee of faculty deans and professors has already put forward a tentative proposal for the college, called McGill College International. The college, which would offer an American-style liberal-arts education to up to 3,000 students, would cost upwards of \$28,000 in tuition per year.

While the Arts Council did not vote on the proposal itself, they had the chance to vote on whether or not investigations into the idea should continue.

"Specifically, it was decided that the dean will constitute a committee that will then review the idea of the MCI, in all its dimensions, in all its aspects, the feasibility, its desirability, and so on," explained Sociology Professor Michael Smith, who is chair of the Arts Faculty Council.

According to Smith, it was important for the members of the Arts Council to look critically at the issue.

"The range of views in the faculty [must] be incorporated in the committee and not just those people who were initially involved in creating the MCI as it is cur-

rently represented. The resolution was that the committee should include people who are skeptical. The obligation is on the dean to put together a committee that starts out with more critical views than those who brought the motion forth."

The decision was controversial and won by a margin of 11 votes. "There were all sorts of views," said Smith. "There are people who think that a private, self-financing entity would be a good thing, and they voted for the motion. There were people who voted for the motion because they wanted to understand what was implied in the issue a bit better...There are people who are unsympathetic to the idea of a self-financing entity, and there are people who doubt the practicality of the ideas proposed [in the MCI proposal]."

"But I do think that the opinion of the meeting is that [the MCI] is worth thinking about it, not that any particular conclusion should be drawn, but that it's worth thinking about."

The decision made by the Arts Faculty to continue with research into the MCI comes just over a month after the Science Faculty Council voted to reject such a proposal. On December 7, the ad hoc MCI committee brought its proposal to the Science Council, which refused to endorse any continuation of research into the idea.

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Don Piatt

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# Montreal is Number One for Students

*City tops Boston as North America's student capital*

By BEN ERRETT

Montreal has more students per capita than any other major city in North America, according to a study released yesterday by McGill's University Planning Office.

With nearly 150,000 students in Montreal in seven universities (McGill, Université de Montréal, École de Hautes Études Commerciales, Polytechnique, Concordia, UQAM and ETS), Montreal has nearly 4.4 students per 100 inhabitants.

The study was undertaken to provide ammunition in the administration's fight for increased post-secondary educational funding. Vice-Principal Academic Luc Vinet explained that the popularity of Montreal's previous boast about being a major student centre prompted the detailed study.

"I wrote in the *Tradition and Innovation* [discussion paper] that Montreal was second only to Boston in student population and we made a number of presentations of that document to politicians and leaders in the business world," Vinet said.

"It was always something they were hooking to. When we made a presentation to [Quebec Finance Minister] Bernard Landry, he was really excited about that. He went back to us for more details, and that's

when we decided to run the study."

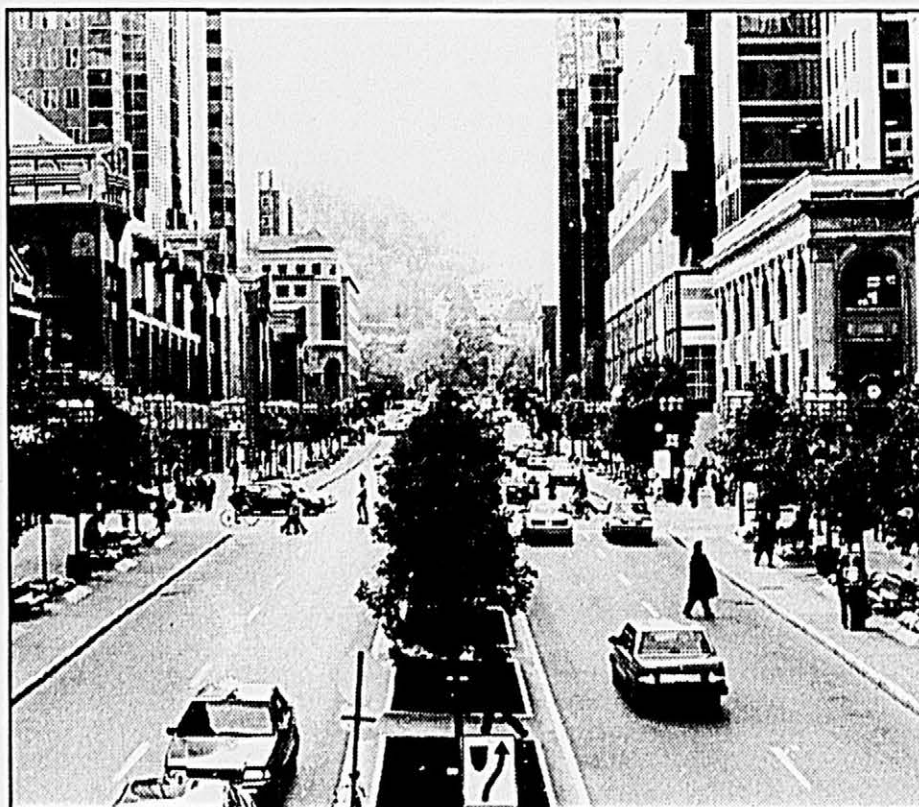
The man in charge of the study was Real Del Degen, associate director of the University Planning Office. He explained that the study was done by merging existing data from Canadian and American sources.

"We took the census data from the US Census bureau and StatsCan, looked at metropolitan areas, added up the populations from the cities and suburbs.... Then we matched every university with its area and compared university enrolment population with the general population."

Del Degen had previously done a study on Montreal's economic importance to Quebec and Canada. That study was used by university administrators both in promotional material and in lobbying for increased funding.

"We had showed that Montreal was the research capital of Canada," said Del Degen. "We wanted to portray ourselves as the Boston of the North, so this was the next step."

"One of the things were trying to get across here is that universities are strategically important to economic development.... I think Montreal politicians are



Montreal: North America's student haven

certainly going to use this. This sheds a positive light on universities, which is always a good thing.

VP Vinet expressed his hope that the media attention would help McGill, but cautioned that Montreal's lead over Boston was narrow.

"One has to take this with a grain of

salt. This is based on the available data, which is from '97. The picture could have changed a little bit. The important part is that we are nose-to-nose with Boston, which is viewed as the greatest university city in North America. It's a great thing to promote."

Vinet says that, while this study may

not directly benefit McGill, the reaction from the public can only help.

"If more students are coming, more revenues will be coming in and we'll be able to do more."

Students' Society President Andrew Tischler expressed interest in using the survey to support the SSMU's fight against differential tuition for out-of-province students.

"We're already using a study that shows that out-of-province students at McGill alone bringing in over \$170-million to the McGill economy. This will definitely help us build our case."

"It's a very good tool to use to show the value of investing in the education centre.... It makes the province that much better off."

A spokeswoman for Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque said that the mayor would certainly use this in his promotion of the city.

"I know the mayor says often in his speeches that Montreal is important because of its universities.... It's information he's happy to have," said spokesperson Michaeli Cantero.

Check out The Daily's expanded commentary section on pages 8-9

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# Quebec Students to Receive Millennium Money

*Minister Legault signs highly anticipated deal with scholarship fund*

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

After almost two years of bureaucratic infighting, the Quebec government has finally struck a deal with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, ensuring that Quebec students will receive their scholarships alongside other Canadians. These scholarships, valued at approximately \$3,000 each, will be distributed immediately to more than 22,000 Quebec students.

"The Foundation is delighted to sign

this agreement. Thanks to what we have done today, Quebec students, like their counterparts across Canada, will benefit from the Foundation's awards," said Jean Monty, CEO of Bell Canada and Chairman of the Millennium Foundation. "The efforts that have been expended on this question over the past nine months have finally paid off."

Monty credited the agreement to the efforts of Quebec student organizations and to officials in the federal government,

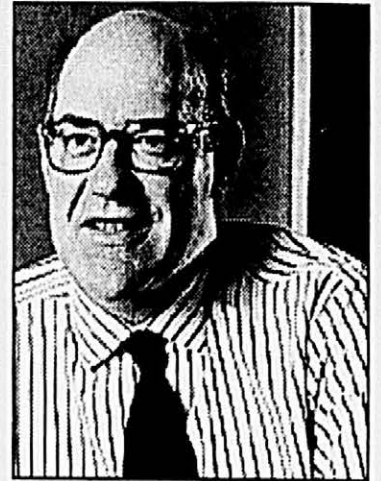
who helped facilitate negotiations. "Quebec students will receive their share of Millennium Scholarships and get their chance to obtain a post-secondary education with less debt," he said.

As part of the agreement, Quebec Education Minister Francois Legault pledged to provide debt relief to an additional 60,000 students and infuse upwards of \$35 million to universities and colleges for infrastructure purposes.

Earlier on in the negotiation process, he expressed concern that the scholarship fund represented a federal encroachment on provincial jurisdiction, and quibbled with the Foundation over symbolic issues such as the exact symbols to be used on scholarship

we know more and a lot better than the federal government, what is good for the students in Quebec," said Legault. "We don't let them [the federal government] have an intrusion in our jurisdiction. What we say is that we replace the money that was already spent on scholarships, then from the money that is saved in doing so, we decide what our priorities are and we spend the money as per the agreement we had with the students and the representatives of CEGEPs and universities."

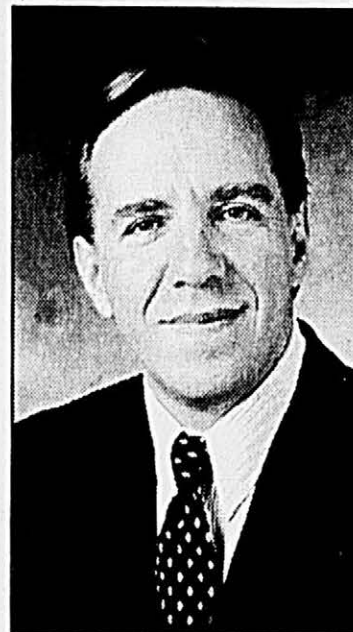
The agreement the Millennium Foundation has signed with the Quebec government is roughly similar to those signed with other provinces, with only one major difference. Legault was insistent on the importance of need-based scholarships, and one unique aspect of the Quebec Millennium Foundation deal is that half of the monies slated for merit scholarships will instead go to the general need-based scholarship fund.



Millennium Foundation Chairman  
Jean Monty

late December, councilors discussed the idea of mounting a lawsuit against the Millennium Scholarship Foundation for not distributing scholarships in a fair manner across Canada.

"We were prepared to undertake all means necessary, including legal, to ensure



Quebec Education Minister Legault

cheques. He insisted that the deal represented no compromises on the part of the Quebec government.

Instead of using cheques sporting Canadian flags or Millennium Foundation insignia, scholarships will be paid out using direct deposit, which, Legault explained, "eliminates a degree of visibility for the federal government."

"I think that, regarding education,

"I think that, regarding education, we know more and a lot better than the federal government, what is good for the students in Quebec."

SSMU VP Community and Government Wojtek Baraniak is pleased that Legault has finally signed a deal with the Millennium Foundation.

"This is an acceptable conclusion to a saga that has lasted for almost two years," he said. "This agreement allows for the reduction in a student's debt load, guarantees portability of awards all across Canada, and avoids duplication."

At the last SSMU Council meeting in

Quebec students' right to Millennium Scholarships," explained Baraniak. "I am happy to see that no legal challenge will be necessary now that all parties have agreed," he said.

The Millennium Scholarship Foundation was created by the federal government in 1998 with a \$2.5 billion endowment. The Foundation is mandated to distribute this endowment directly to students and to educational institutions until 2010.

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## McGill Announces New Admissions Policies

BY BEN ERRETT

New policies announced last month at Senate will substantially change the way students get into McGill.

The policies were outlined in a report from the University Admission Committee aiming to speed up McGill's lengthy admissions process as well as standardize marks from CEGEPs across the province.

"This is a fairly big change in administrative matters," said Vice-Principal Academic Luc Vinet, the chair of the committee that produced the report.

"We'll be using the R grade system [for CEGEPs] that is used in the francophone universities."

Vinet described the R score as a way of comparing a student's marks to the strength of the school.

"From all the tests that we've been running, this is a better indicator. It is, for the anglophone CEGEPs, certainly a change that has preoccupied them."

Before this move, no standard system was used to gauge the quality of CEGEP educations.

"There were no formulas—it was just experience. In this sense, it will make the whole process more scientific," Vinet said.

These standards will not, however, be applied outside of Quebec, as no such system exists.

Another important change comes in

the university weighting of marks from Ontario students. Previously, all marks from OAC, Grade 12, and Grade 11 courses were used to evaluate applicants. Now, McGill has joined Ontario universities in looking at the top six OAC marks only.

"We will align ourselves with the Ontario universities with respect to Ontario students. The main reason for doing this is to be more efficient and more accurate in our assessments," Vinet said.

Vinet also noted that McGill's previous practice of going back to the Grade 11 marks of Ontario students had not made a difference in the quality of students accepted.



# Education Not Necessarily a Social Program

By CHRIS BODNAR

OTTAWA (CUP) - Jane Stewart, federal Minister of Human Resources and Development, says her government recognizes the importance of a strong post-secondary education system in Canada, even though it may not be seen as a social program anymore.

In an exclusive interview with Canadian University Press, Stewart outlined what she views as her government's accomplishments in the realm of higher education.

But she avoided commenting on whether Canadians can count on their education system to get the same attention as other social programs.

"Education is certainly viewed as an important piece of a healthy Canada," said Stewart in regard to her government's view of spending on post-secondary education.

The Minister says Ottawa has shown its commitment to education through initiatives like the use of Registered Education Savings Programs, the Millennium Scholarship Fund, making interest on student loans tax deductible, and by extending loan repayment periods.

"I think when you look at the numbers of students supported by Canada students loans, I think what we're finding is that we do have to have strong partnerships at all

levels of government and with individual citizens to ensure that we create a tradition of life-long learning in Canada," she said.

But Stewart also maintains there is a greater need for corporate involvement in Canada's education system.

"In the new economy all jobs are knowledge-based jobs," said Stewart. "I think that what we're finding is that we need partnerships."

"We've set out in the Speech from the Throne the priorities we feel we're in a position to undertake," she continued. "I'm glad to see they include a focus on our children, and in the longer term a focus on skills and a strategy that includes all partners."

But despite Stewart's insistence that the Liberals are looking towards "partnerships" with the provinces, the government has come under repeated attack from some provincial governments for meddling in provincial affairs.

In November, the provincial finance ministers called on the federal government to increase transfer payments to the provinces for education by \$3.7-billion a



MP Jane Stewart says the Liberal government recognizes the importance of post-secondary education. But do they?

year. Transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education and training have been cut by \$7-billion since the Liberals took office in 1993.

Stewart herself had to step in to medi-

ate negotiations between the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and the government of Quebec, after the province accused Ottawa of trying to control education through the scholarship program. Education is designated as a provincial jurisdiction in Canada's constitution.

And while Stewart says her government has no intention of taking control of education away from the provinces, government documents indicate the Liberals recognized the provinces' dissatisfaction with educational funding.

In documents obtained from the Privy Council Office under an Access to Information request, speaking notes for the Prime Minister warned that there would be opposition to the Millennium Scholarship Fund's creation.

"Provinces see themselves as key stakeholders, as education is a provincial jurisdiction, and they may seek a role in designing the Fund and/or the scholarships," say the documents from late 1997 and early 1998. "Further, to date, both Quebec and Alberta have indicated that their share of the funds should be transferred to them."

The documents indicate the Millennium Fund would serve to "complement" existing provincial programs, not to replace them.

Other documents show a greater concern on behalf of the federal government to monitor the political commentary from Quebec regarding national unity, rather than working out details on how the Foundation would allocate money or be structured.

Despite early indications that the Millennium Fund would be in addition to existing programs, Ottawa has had to reconsider these earlier statements.

It is now allowing some provincial governments to reduce current student aid programs, resulting in substantial savings in the areas of education spending.

The Ontario government estimates savings of up to \$90-million after replacing part of a loan-forgiveness program with the new federal scholarships.

But despite differences between the federal and provincial governments,

Stewart says the Liberals are committed to ensuring good relations between all levels of government.

"There are a large number of federal programs in the area of education and by in large they're well-received," she said. "They're strong partnerships between the government of Canada and other leaders in their particular domains, and focused on providing leadership and contribution in areas the government of Canada feels are important."

## HOT CHOCOLATE FOR THE HOMELESS

Students raised over \$1500 in the first two days of their campus campaign to dole out hot chocolate and spark awareness of the homeless crisis in Montreal.

A team of volunteers are braving the cold until tomorrow in a makeshift swill shack, selling hot chocolate and coffee to raise money for the city's Old Brewery Mission. "It's winter and that means it's

of the James Administration Building through tomorrow. - Jon Bricker

## CHARGES AGAINST STUDENT LEADERS DROPPED IN SEATTLE

Two senior representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students who were arrested during last month's anti-WTO protest in Seattle had their charges dropped, the city's attorney reported.

## news-briefs



to prosecute 51 protest-related cases, or roughly 10 per cent of all charges laid. - Zach Dubinsky

## U OF T ADMINISTRATOR CHARGED WITH FRAUD

TORONTO (CUP) - A former University of Toronto employee was arrested last week after it was discovered that an estimated \$500,000 of university funds had been misdirected since 1993.

Kenneth McMaster, who was removed from his position in early December, is charged with fraud.

"Of course the gentleman has been arrested and we are prosecuting him," said U of T Vice-Provost Michael Finlayson. "We have dismissed him, and we are hoping to recover some or all of our losses."

In his capacity as an administrator within the maintenance department, McMaster was authorized to tender bids and award contracts for the construction and repair of university property up to a value of \$5,000 without requiring any additional approval.

Over the past seven years McMaster is alleged to have granted many small contracts to phoney companies, sometimes

inventing work that was not actually required.

Stirling says the dummy companies were able to complete the work required by further sub-contracting out to legitimate companies.

It was a \$39,000 invoice for the repair of the roof of the Sanford Fleming Building that finally caught the attention of McMaster's supervisor.

"His supervisor questioned the amount

of the invoice compared to the value of the work that had been done," said Sterling.

When confronted with the apparent discrepancy, McMaster admitted to having manipulated the contracts for his own personal gain.

The university is currently mounting a civil suit against him that is expected to reach the courts in February. - Julia Garro



Volunteers serve up hot chocolate to support Old Mission Brewery.

cold out and people need help," explained Ali Shah, coordinator for the event. "Students often don't get a chance to donate, and this gives them one." Shah said he was pleased that the volunteers had raised \$1500 by Wednesday, putting them well on their way to their goal of \$2,000 by week's end.

Shah said that volunteers are also collecting donations of money, clothes, coats and winter wear. The stand will be in front

CFS National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and Newfoundland and Labrador Representative Jen Anthony were among several hundred people arrested while taking part in a peaceful rally in downtown Seattle on December 1, 1999. Both were charged with failure to disperse, a misdemeanor offence that carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

The Seattle attorney's office still plans

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# Enemy of the State

*David Hoffman fights to tell the truth about US government practice*

BY TAL PINCHEVSKY

In April of 1995, a car bomb ripped through the Murrah building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 people including several children.

Two years after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing a county grand jury finally began to reinvestigate this horrible tragedy that completely changed the dynamics of terrorism in the United States. This is where our story begins.

## MEET DAVID HOFFMAN

David Hoffman, author of *The Oklahoma City Bombing and the Politics of Terror* and publisher of the Haight Ashbury Free Press, was among the first to investigate and scrutinize the case. In his book, he outlines how the United States government had prior knowledge of this bombing. The book also proceeded to show how terrorist acts were employed by the US government to enhance invasive tactics against private citizens as well as a complex web made up of numerous connections including convicted bombers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the American neo-Nazi movement, and a Middle-Eastern terrorist organization.

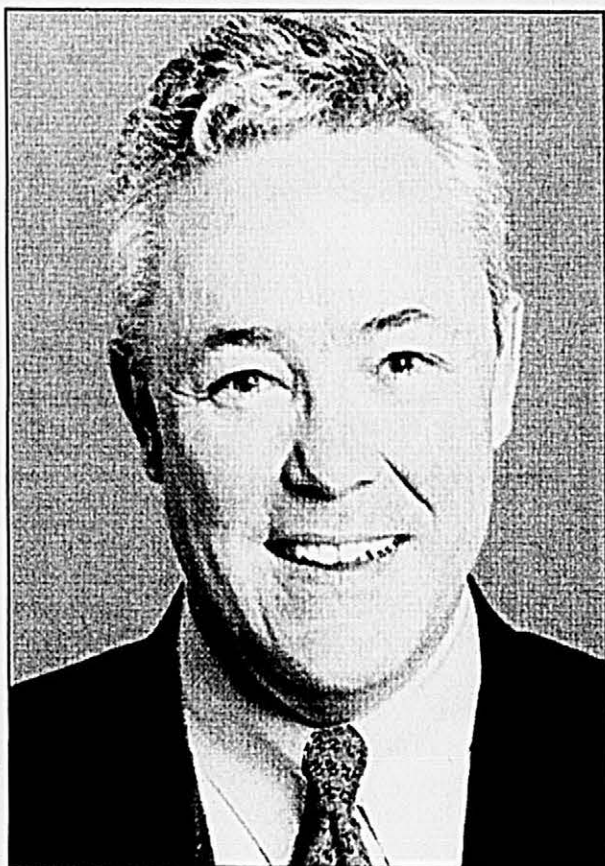
In the investigation following the bombing, a group of 12 to 14 investigators interviewed well over 100 witnesses during a period of 18 months. Among those interviewed was David Hoffman. During his inquiry, investigators found prior government knowledge of the bombing as well as expert testimony saying that the building could not have been destroyed by a fertilizer bomb left in a parked car, as originally reported. After observing an enormous amount of evidence and discussing the case with numerous key witnesses, one indictment was handed down.

Following this investigation, David Hoffman was the only individual indicted, cited as influencing jurors through his book. While Hoffman was accused of tampering with the jury by allegedly sending them copies of his book, his real crime appears to be ruffling the feathers of local government.

In an interview with *The McGill Daily*, Hoffman revealed that, while fortunate to have his sentence downgraded to community service, he was forced to perform such degrading work as shoveling elephant manure in the hot and humid local zoo. "In most community service, one has a choice of about 40 different jobs," said Hoffman. "In my case, I was only offered a choice between two degrading jobs. This being when anyone who knows the system is aware that there are numerous options

available."

It is definitely possible that this would become simply one of many government initiatives to demoralize Hoffman and attempt to stall his own investigations. This investigation would soon naturally gravitate towards E-Systems, now known as Raytheon Systems. This group is a major CIA-NSA-DOD-that's Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and Department of Defence for the layperson-contractor. E-Systems has been collaborating with US intelligence since 1947 and, as their press release states, "E-Systems continued to be a leader in reconnaissance, surveillance, and intelligence systems, supporting programs that remain critical to maintaining peace."



E-Systems CEO Daniel Burnham.

## THE WHISTLEBLOWER

Not long ago, Hoffman and his attorney, Mike Johnston, began talking to Winifred Richardson, a former E-Systems employee claiming he had government documents outlining how government investigators found about \$100 million in illegal ripoffs at 25 per cent to 30 per cent of all E-System contracts. Pooling all the ripoffs from all E-System contracts results in a total of about \$3-billion a year. Richardson's correspondence with Hoffman and Johnston also claimed, "I also have court testimony where the Northeast Texas Drug Interdiction Task Force admitted knowing about drug smuggling through E-Systems Government aircraft on contracts let by Air Force Special Operations Command."

Simply proliferating slanderous ideas implicating government in illegal acts on private citizens is nothing new in the fabric of American history. It is widely believed, however, that in the past 20 years, greater government impropriety has brought about more drastic means by which those attempting to expose scandal are silenced.

Winifred Richardson, since exposing E-Systems' illegal dealings from within, has narrowly avoided numerous attempts on his life. As Richardson wrote to Hoffman, "There was an attempt to blow me up back in 87 when I first went to the government. The Colonel gave our names to the company as well as the information after promising to keep it in confidence. He also stated to me in his most menacing voice that I was messing with hundreds of millions of dollars and was in more danger than I had ever been in my life. This was Col. Manning Crump, at the time commander of Det2 at E-Systems. He later admitted under oath to going to work for E-Systems before he retired and was still based at E-Systems."

Hoffman was open with *The Daily* about the numerous deaths directly related to the regimes of US presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush. "Both Clinton and Bush have been and will be remembered for their massive amount of deaths that they are directly responsible for. This is represented mostly in Kosovo, Iraq, and Panama, but they, especially Bush, are responsible for many deaths both abroad and domestically."

This is directly related to and especially relevant because of President Reagan's Executive Order 12333 in 1980. This order privatizing covert intelligence states "agencies within the Intelligence Community are authorized to enter into contracts or arrangements for the provision of goods or services with private companies or institutions in the United States and need not reveal the sponsorship of such contracts or arrangements for authorized intelligence purposes."

## MR. BUCK REVELL

Hoffman's primary target in his most recent investigations, to be outlined in his upcoming book entitled *Murdergate*, is a man by the name of Oliver "Buck" Revell. As Hoffman puts it, "Buck Revell is basically the man responsible for covering up the illegal actions of the United States government and is directly related to Oliver North

and the Iran-Contra scandal." Richardson alleges that when the E-Systems story first broke, Revell was immediately transferred to the FBI office in Dallas to keep informants quiet.

Numerous E-Systems whistleblowers have found themselves caught in Revell's "regulatory framework." E-Systems employee Michelle Cooper had approached Buck Revell's underling, Danny James, at

shop. A few days later, as Hoffman was walking towards his car to meet with Richardson, he found all four of the tires on his car slashed.

"I called him [Richardson] asking him if anyone else he knew had their tires slashed," said Hoffman. "He told me that he had heard from two other people he knew that had all four of their tires slashed." Hoffman has since been brought

“ It is widely believed that in the past twenty years, greater government impropriety has brought about more drastic means by which those attempting to expose scandal are silenced. ”

the National Security Section of the FBI, who threatened her with retaliatory charges. Soon thereafter, Cooper's son was murdered and, shortly after that, she was dead.

Leo Salis, another E-Systems employee, had records on numerous drug flights and the redistribution of PROMIS, software believed to be stolen by the Department of Justice. Salis soon found a bomb in his car that malfunctioned, but he was eventually killed. Richardson has shared numerous other stories with Hoffman of other deaths connected with the case.

As Hoffman and his attorney have been verbally indicting Revell, they too have encountered the methods by which Revell's other victims have been silenced. Soon after their correspondence with Richardson began, Johnston's office was broken into twice. The first of these break-ins involved replacing the lock on his file storage locker with a different and far more complicated lock. After the second break in, Johnston found a tape left behind on which a conversation had been recorded between two unidentified men with Johnston's voice dubbed in, implicating him in an illegally recorded phone conversation.

The very day that Hoffman began talking to Richardson, his computer crashed so violently that he was forced to take it into a

into federal court, by Revell no less, on a libel charge.

Hoffman also told *The Daily* how Richardson had told him that Revell had a relative working for E-Systems. A call to E-Systems by Hoffman revealed that there was in fact one Michael A. Revell working at E-Systems. "Although Michael Revell is not Buck's son, it seems fairly likely that he is a relative of his," said Hoffman.

Hoffman's career as a writer has not been spared by the Revell machine. His book, *The Oklahoma City Bombing and the Politics of Terror*, suddenly disappeared from the Amazon.com website just a few days ago. Amazon had no idea why the page had suddenly disappeared. When Hoffman sent his proposal for his new book, *Murdergate*, to a publisher, they sent him a reply indicating that something horribly awry had gone on with his proposal. The reply stated, "We received your most recent message concerning your manuscript. We clicked on attachment 'Proposal One,' got a warning message. We pressed cancel thinking to send the message to another address and open it from another computer. However, at that point, it caused our email browser to go double, i.e. two versions of it/its menus appeared on the screen, and both were totally locked. We then pressed end task, everything closed, and when we reopened, your message was gone. Needless to say, it was startling and somewhat unnerving."

Hoffman documents the plight of his mission, saying "Buck Revell is saying and trying to prove that I am an irresponsible writer with an anti-government agenda. The truth is that I have everything to lose. My career and the lives of those around me have been threatened."

David Hoffman is still in the eye of the storm. The better part of these events have transpired within the past several months. Documenting his present situation, Hoffman said "I feel like a character in that film *Enemy of the State*." As he has already completed over 500 pages for his next book, one, only hopes that David Hoffman will not be silenced like those before him.



David Hoffman



# Magnolia Wilts Amid Hype

*Cruise takes pay cut to appear in Anderson's latest*

BY GABE FLORES

With his third full-length feature film, Paul Thomas Anderson has quickly risen to head the new class of Hollywood directors. His critically acclaimed *Boogie Nights* not only received recognition from the Hollywood establishment, but lives on as a cult classic.

With *Magnolia*, Anderson recruited some of the stars from *Boogie Nights*, including Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Smith, William H. Macy and John C. Riley.

Written and directed by Anderson, *Magnolia* runs several parallel storylines, all of which mysteriously tie together by the end of the 3-hour epic. The film is an ambitious brew of comedy, drama, and elements of the surreal. Bookended by three separate freak accidents reminiscent of an episode of *Mr. Magoo*, the film gets off to an entertaining, if not unexpected start.

According to Anderson, who also wrote the screenplay, the movie is a meditation on "chance" and its impact on our daily lives. From there, we're dropped into the midst of a humorous police search that

introduces us to both a hapless police officer and a young inner-city kid who functions, briefly, as a kind of oracle. We're then quickly spun through a cast that includes a crusty old man who's dying of cancer (Jason Robards), his male nurse (Philip Seymour Smith), and ditzily distraught wife (Julianne Moore); a child prodigy and his exploitive, manipulative father; a misogynistic guru who tutors men on how to take advantage of women (Tom Cruise); an aged host of a kiddie television show and his estranged, druggie daughter (Melora Walters); and a washed up TV whiz-kid who's broke and lonely (William H. Macy).

As their separate tales unwind, so do their links to one another. What Anderson really does, though, is take the sad, bitter-sweet notes that they all sound in their individual lives and orchestrate them into a moving commentary on the nature of human interaction and how much casual brutality and violence is folded into everyday existence. He does this without sentimentality or cheap tugs at the tear-ducts. Rather, the movie is a deft mixture of humor and unflinching characterizations.



Julianne Moore as a strung-out trophy wife to Jason Robards, an actor that has played dying men for the past decade

of their marriage cheating on him, only now realizes her true love for him. Game show host Jimmy Gator (Philip Baker Hall) is similarly afflicted with cancer. He spends the mornings trying to make peace with his coke-snorting, fragile daughter, Claudia, and his evenings struggling through a taping of the inane quiz program *What Do Kids Know?* Quiz Kid Donnie Smith (William H. Macy) did time on the show in the 60s. Now, in the movie's most fragmented section, he's an unsuccessful stereo salesman, claiming to have been struck "stupid" by a freak lightning bolt.

Little Stanley Spector (Jeremy Blackman) is the star of the show now, exploited like a trained monkey by his pushy stage dad (Michael Bowen). While Stanley crams in the library, earnest LAPD Officer Jim Kurning (John C. Reilly) is

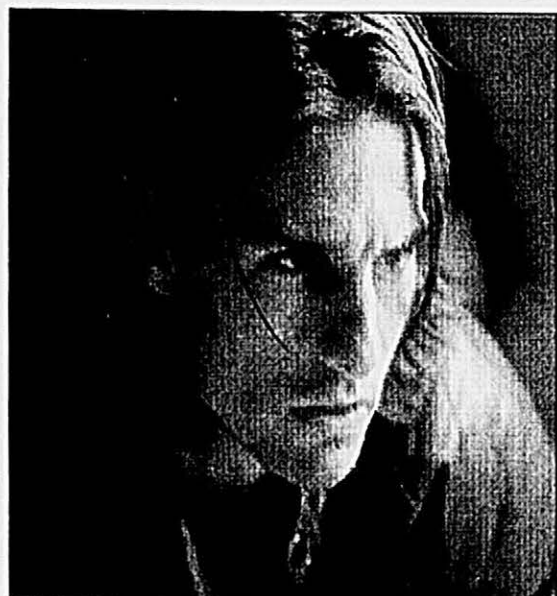
busting Claudia for a noise violation. Captivated, he haltingly asks her out, unaware that she's been on a cocaine binge.

Easily the most dynamic person on the screen is the wonderfully named Frank T.J. Mackey, a television motivational speaker with a most peculiar calling. Cocky, with a magnetic line of gab, Mackey is the ultimate male chauvinist with a phone number that says it all: 1-877-TAME HER. Preaching and teaching a profanity-laced philosophy of penile supremacy he calls "Seduce and Destroy," Mackey gives Cruise the chance to cut loose by doing amusing riffs on his charismatic superstar image.

It's great fun, expertly written and performed, and all the more enjoyable because the self-parody element is unexpected. The early buzz is that Cruise may even receive an Oscar nomination for his

supporting role in this movie, but then again, as his character's depth is tested in the latter half of the movie, Cruise's limitations in the more sensitive scenes leave something to be desired. Nonetheless, Cruise waived his usual multimillion dollar fee in order to work with Anderson.

The real trouble is the profusion of expository scenes that drag on, establishing what's obvious to the audience. The "bookends," in which an omniscient narrator doles out jocular platitudes about the bizarreness of everyday life, are tonally disruptive and superfluous, probably tacked on afterwards so audiences would "get it" — as if the three hours of wacky coincidences and freak accidents weren't self-explanatory. The bookends amuse, but they're not organically a part of the work.



An intense Cruise delivers a complex, gritty performance

## A Side-Project That Works

*Barenaked Ladies' bassist keeps it in the family*

BY MATTHEW MACLEOD

The Brothers Creeggan. It could be the name of a trapeze troupe, or a magic show, or maybe even a Vaudeville act.

In reality, it's a bit of all three. The Brothers Creegan are Jim Creeggan the longstanding bassist of Barenaked Ladies fame, his brother and former member of the BNL, Andy, and Ian McLauchlan.

*Trunks* is the third album released by the Brothers Creeggan and features Jim Creeggan on upright bass, guitar, piano, and viola. The their credit, the two previous albums, entitled, "The Brothers Creeggan" and "The Brothers Creeggan II" have sold nearly 15,000 copies through word of mouth, mail order, and concert sales. The Brothers make music not with sleight of hand, but with sly wit and a sense of high-wire daring.

*Trunks* is fluid. The album is deeply rooted in the fact that both brothers have traveled over the world experiencing and absorbing rhythms with instruments of other cultures. Peppared with the sounds of tambourines, brekete, dono, stomps, and dobro, their music represents an irreverent desire to mess with the rules of music. Over its eleven tracks, *Trunks* has melody, Bacharach-style pop, and the latin-tinged "John's In The Fridge." Skewed,

jagged piano lines slice through "Kitchen Dancing," countered by the subtle polyrhythms of "There's A Melody."

"Brothers Creeggan is Andy and me and sort of the expression of our sort of

musical relationship," explained Jim Creeggan, Andy's elder brother. "It's full of lots of music but not one specific type of music. There's not one major route, there are lots of routes." Andy added, "It's been that way since we were kids, really. People should know that Brothers Creeggan have been doing this since time zero — well, time one for Jim and time zero for me, and it's been a natural progression ever since."

*Trunks* is the sound of the



Says Jim (left) to Andy (right): "You know mom always liked my best." Creeggans play-

ing for keeps. Barenaked Ladies, they report, is settling into a work regime that will include regular breaks, which in turn will allow more time for the Brothers Creeggan to follow their particular creative path.

"The other guys in Barenaked Ladies have kids and want to spend a lot of time with them," Jim explains, "whereas I have this Brothers Creeggan thing that I want to sort of incubate."

The Brothers Creeggan with Julie Doiron & the Wooden Stars play in Montreal at the Cabaret (2111 St. Laurent) Sunday, January 16 at 9pm. Check their website [www.brotherscreeggan.com](http://www.brotherscreeggan.com) for further information.



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The Daily's staff. Printed by Payette & Simms,  
Montreal, Quebec.

The Daily is a founding member of the Canadian  
University Press and Presse étudiante du Québec.

Printed on 20% recycled paper.

Please recycle this newspaper.

ISSN 1192-4608

Subscriptions to The Daily are available for \$50 a  
year (70 issues), or \$30 for half a year. Contact  
the business and advertising office.

The McGill Daily welcomes letters to the editor  
and comments from readers on our new  
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# Private McGill Threatens Canadianism

Canada has an international reputation as a country that strives to balance social democracy – the right to equal societally provided welfare – with the liberal rights of its citizens. Indeed, our Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides that “every individual...has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination.” The UN Human Development Index has recognized this by rating Canada highest for the past six years.

These equality guarantees demonstrate an important principle of Canadian democracy, namely that all Canadians should have equal opportunity to legally pursue that which brings them happiness. But what we must recognize is that equality of opportunity cannot be had without some guarantee of equality of condition. Regardless of individual exceptions, two people cannot equally enjoy their Charter-guaranteed right to life if one is systemically denied equal medical care. Similarly, they cannot be said to have an equal chance at getting the same job if one was systemically denied equal education.

A study commissioned by the Toronto Board of Education in 1997 showed a statistical link between the family income and achievement of students from public schools. This poses a serious threat to the principle that all Canadians should enjoy equal opportunity, since the children of rich parents would statistically have higher university admission rates, and, ultimately, higher incomes. To paraphrase Plato, in such a situation a rich horse will almost always breed a rich horse.

For better or worse, our governments can do little to remedy the situation. As said, Canada has adopted a balance between social democracy and liberal rights, and though this balance allows for progressive taxation, it bars outright expropriation. Since they cannot equalize the conditions external to education, what our governments can do is guarantee the equality of the education itself.

This is where McGill's foray into creating a fully private liberal arts college comes into play. A potential McGill College International must give the governments of Quebec and Canada significant pause –

pause to consider their funding priorities in upcoming budgets (no doubt one of the university's intentions) and pause to consider the meaning of equality of opportunity.

Responsibility does not rest solely with government. McGill too, as a non-profit institution with a mandate to advance learning, must observe the fundamental right of its students to an equal education, regardless of their financial resources. In this regard, Dean of Arts Carman Miller's pronouncement that “public sector education should be first-class” is encouraging.

Therefore, the proposed international college and its students must never receive preferential access to university resources, professors, residence spaces, and services. An MCI should not have a distinct faculty, nor should its classes be exclusive to MCI students. Also, admissions – to the university as a whole and to individual programs and classes – must remain “MCI-blind.”

It could be argued that McGill should charge a significant premium to international students, who have never paid taxes in Canada or contributed to our collective

welfare, so that Canadians do not have to subsidize foreigners seeking a bargain on quality post-secondary education. Such a move would certainly undermine the quality and diversity of McGill's international student population, but it would not threaten the cosmopolitanism and diversity-awareness of McGill's Canadian students, given the multiculturalism of Canada and Montreal. An international college must remain just that, however – for international students only. The right of tax-paying Canadians to top-notch post-secondary education must not be jeopardized.

If McGill can meet these conditions and still attract sufficient enrolment in the MCI, then so be it. If not, the Quebec government has three possible courses of action to safe-keep equal public post-secondary education at the university: first, it can refuse to recognize a McGill degree; second, it can revoke part or all of McGill's funding; third, it could seek grounds to revoke McGill's non-profit status. In short, if McGill cannot guarantee that one of this country's foremost principles will be upheld, then the MCI must die.

**Slibel & Lander**  
and squander too!  
Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Sorry kids, but despite the best efforts of many enraged students, Slibel is back to dish the goods. First off, problems galore at the newly (finally) opened **Brown Student Services Building**. The new daycare centre (you know, the one that all our money is sitting in a bank account for) has only one accessible exit, which is kind of against that whole fire-safety thing. Also, SSMU execs apparently don't like the fact that their offices are right next to **sewage tanks** and high-voltage generators. (A lesser rag would insert a crude joke here, but we will refrain.) As well, the locks are apparently quite shoddy, and can easily be opened with a **credit card**. Also, there's no pay phones, no power in many of the outlets, and only one water fountain in the whole building. Add to that the fact

that the lack of a street number makes it all but impossible to order a pizza. Shatner, in all its decrepitude, is starting to look better and better....We've heard that kids love that political gossip, so here's a news flash: **Xavier Van Chau** is reportedly considering a run for **VP Turtle-necks**! In other elections gossip, Wojtek is reportedly sitting in **The Tisch's** chair when the Big Man is out of his office and Louis Philippe Messier (aka **The Mess**) is readying for a run for VP Community and Government. Also, we hear someone who ran for president last year is going to pull a **Tisch** and try it again.

*Slibel & Lander welcomes your juicy gossip. Send the scoops to slibel\_lander@hotmail.com. Your anonymity is assured.*



On Track: **Augusto Pinochet**. Hey, that whole frail-old-man ploy worked! Let's all go kill people!

On Crack: **The Mars Lady**. Drop the 'tude, babe. It ain't working for ya.



20 years ago: McGill's principal, David Johnston, faced tough questions on a CBC radio phone-in program. “One caller asked

about a ‘backlash’ against French-Canadian medical students,” The Daily reported, while another “expressed anxiety about foreign students on campus.” Johnston replied that there were more Canadian students being educated in foreign countries than foreign students receiving an education in Canada.

The Daily also reported that the Association Générale des Etudiants à UQAM had occupied a UQAM administrative building in an effort to gain official recognition from the university of its status as a student association.

40 years ago: The Daily interviewed current Supreme Court of Canada Justice Ian Binnie in a story on the Red and White Revue's production of *Got It Made*, a musical about the rise and subsequent fall of a rock-and-roll star. Binnie was the producer of the show.

The Daily's then-executive editor, current Quebec Court of Appeal Justice Morris Fish (who is favoured for an appointment to the Supreme Court in the near future), reported that the Students' Executive Council botched a by-election for a com-

merce representative and would have to run the election a second time.

60 years ago: The Daily reported that a British destroyer, the *Grenville*, had been sunk in the North Sea. Britain affirmed its right as a belligerent in World War II to censor mail to and from the United States.

Also in the news, George C. McDonald, news editor of The Daily, resigned his post. “I find that I can no longer be personally responsible to the McGill Student Society for the editorial policy of the McGill Daily,” he penned.

## TOUCHÉ!

Letters from the Globe and Mail on Tuesday and yesterday, following a report on Monday stating that McGill law grads gave their alma mater a B in Canadian Lawyer magazine.

## Grading McGill

Re Canadian Law Schools (Social Studies — Jan. 10): I was glad to see that McGill got a B from its alumni, since everyone knows that a B at McGill is an A anywhere else!

*Tony Hoffmann, Faculty of Law,  
McGill University, Montreal*

## ABCs at McGill

With regard to grading universities, Tony Hoffman (letter — Jan. 11) states that a B at McGill is an A anywhere else. I cannot believe that McGill reading skills are that poor.

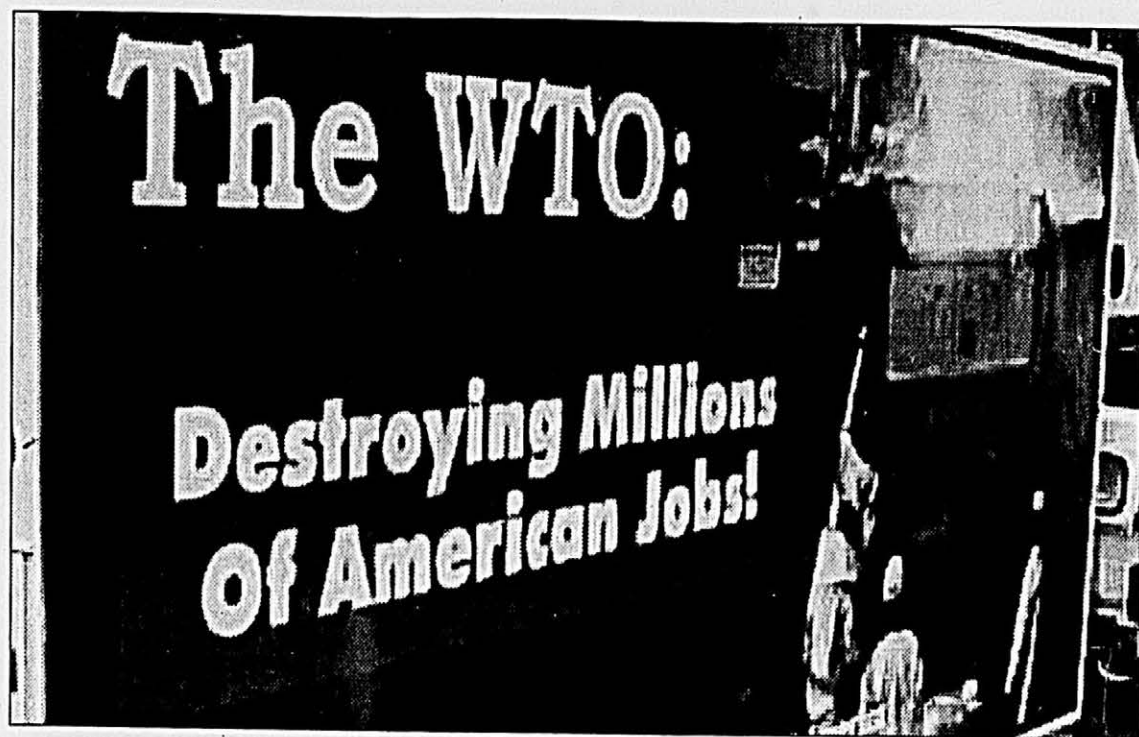
*Morton S. Rapp, Toronto*

## OBITUARY

Well known activist and former McGill Daily staffer Kitty Wilson died on December 31, 1999, in Kamloops, BC. Née Katherine Haverfield in 1912, Kitty grew up in central British Columbia, where she lived for most of her life. As a McGill student in the late 1930s, she became the first Women's Editor of The Daily. Her sharp wit and tongue led

her to become a columnist and Women's Editor for the Penticton Herald in the 1960's. Involved in many other community organizations, Kitty was an important figure in the Okanagan valley for many years. She leaves behind six children and 11 grandchildren. She will be missed by her family and friends.





# Whither Globalization?

comment



BY PAULINE HWANG

So by now you've heard about the cops, pepper spray, and tear gas at the "Battle of Seattle." The drama has unfolded. The whos, whats, wheres and whens have hit prime-time – but the whys?

Why did we all go to Seattle? Why should the WTO "turn around"? The two points I find most striking are its undemocratic nature and the social-environmental consequences of always putting trade first.

Why is the World Trade Organization undemocratic? Richer nations and business reps have basically shaped WTO rules. In contrast, both non-governmental organizations and developing nations were excluded from most of the process. If member countries were hesitant to accept agreements, the International Forum on Globalization says, "they were told they would be abandoned by the global trading system, and were threatened with reduced access to... international loans." The WTO dispute-settlement body's secret panels of unelected officials enforce rulings with harsh economic penalties and trade sanctions.

Why should we believe that economic growth and liberalization benefits everyone, especially the poor? Looking at the numbers, conventionally measured economic growth benefits the rich and short-changes the poor. Awash in unprecedented corporate profits between 1990-98, average CEO pay went up 481 per cent, while average worker income stagnated or dropped slightly (adjusted to inflation).

The WTO intellectual-property agreement – which allows companies to patent seed and life forms – threatens indigenous rights to traditional plants and medicines, as well as farmers' rights to save seed for replanting. As Vandana Shiva of India says, often "the WTO is about forced trade" for developing countries; for every \$1 made through forced export, the Third World loses \$10. In reality, the WTO's "consensus" decision-making (no voting) is difficult with 135 countries, so the bulk of negotiations occurs among a few – and not everyone is invited.

Aside from its own non-democratic structure, the WTO threatens domestic democratic decisions. Its central principle is that commercial interests trump all others. In practice, local and national environmental, food safety, or human-rights laws and standards are struck down as "non-tariff trade barriers."

For example, the European Union has an 11-year ban on hormone-treated beef because scientists are concerned about cancer. The WTO ruled this ban an illegal barrier to trade; Europe faces large sanctions for attempting to protect public health. In another case, a 1996 Massachusetts law to discourage business with Burma on account of its human-rights record was ruled illegal by the WTO, though it was identical to a 1980s, pre-WTO law to combat apartheid in South Africa. Final example: the US government weakened its Clean Air Act when the WTO ruled they could not restrict the import of substandard "dirty" oil. Under WTO rules, there's little room for concerns about human rights, the environment, child labour, or other non-economic interests.

Money talks, you see. Everything else is silenced. So whom does the system serve? The issues mentioned here are just the tip of the iceberg. The first step in the solution is to democratize world trade, so that concerns may be properly addressed.

Seattle '99 was a victory in more than the collapse of the WTO negotiations. It was a battle in an ongoing war that brought non-establishment economic views into much wider debate. "Until now, to doubt the value of unfettered free trade has been the economic equivalent of proclaiming the Earth is flat," said the Toronto Star's Richard Gwyn. "Suddenly it's

become intellectually and politically legitimate to argue that the world ought to be a level playing field for all."

Now in the aftermath, where do we go from here?

Seattle marked the beginning of a long collaboration among ordinary people to act on what many of us already suspected – that the current rules just aren't working. Yes, global trade is here to stay. Yes, we need rules to organize it. We need global regulations to protect local interests within the dominance of transnational business and globalized trade.

Alternative visions moving forward vary. Some wish to incorporate labour and envi-

ronment into WTO agreements, for example. They say the current structure just needs reform. Others argue that the WTO should be abolished and reconstructed from scratch. They cite the earlier WTO environmental working group – because corporate-managed trade was still the "raison d'être of the WTO," the working group began in practice to help the WTO "address" environmental standards by attacking and lowering the standards themselves. These critics argue that labour, human rights, and many other issues are too valuable to trust in the hands of the current institution.

Why is our current goal export-oriented economic growth? The International Forum on Globalization's report entitled *Beyond the WTO: Alternatives to Economic Globalization* lists eight core principles which economic rules and institutions should support: democracy, favouring local autonomy, ecological sustainability, economic human rights, food safety and security, preventing trade of the "global commons" (water, seeds, genes, culture, etc.), equity, and diversity (cultural, biological, economic, and social). The IFG and other collaboratives worldwide enumerate recommendations in alternative plans of action, including details for strengthening the United Nations.

Fundamentally, most agree, we need people-managed rules that consider trade not an end unto itself, but a means to a healthier people and planet. "We are in Seattle," says Anita Roddick, "arguing for a world trade system that puts basic human rights and the environment at its core." In the words of Lori Wallach, "we need floors, not ceilings" – we need to build on minimum international standards, not consider them barriers to be torn down.

In Seattle, I caught a glimpse of something beautiful I believe the world has rarely seen: intertwining local and global networks of people with common visions. Decentralized, diverse, and dynamic. The challenge is for these networks to continue working together. However, what grassroots movements lack in efficiency they make up for in creativity and passion. So we're all invited to build a better agenda – one that turns global trade from our shackle into our tool for constructing a better system.

We can stick to the status quo or we can educate ourselves and each other, collectively creating a more equitable and sustainable planet. What do you say?

## For Whom Bell Toils

I had the recent misfortune to call Bell Canada. Normally I'm not so courageous. But I had to be. I found a new long-distance plan that gets me \$7.5-per-minute calls in Canada, all day, with no second bill. Previously we were paying Bell five bucks a month for the honour of being charged twice that price.

"What can I do for you, Mr. Dubinsky?" the perky young saleswoman began. And she didn't lose a beat when I calmly told her that I wanted to cancel my Bell long-distance plan.

"Okay, but I'm looking at my computer right now, and I see that you've only got a basic phone line. Do you know about some of the other services Bell offers?"

Basic phone line? Last I checked, they could only do one thing – like the name

says. Really, what else can the eponymous phone line do? How much for the one that doubles as an alarm clock radio, makes breakfast, and translates into Swahili? I braced for the barrage.

"We have Call Waiting service. Do you know what that is, Mr. Dubinsky?" No, I'm actually of Neanderthal parentage, I just discovered the wheel on Saturday, and I flicked my first light switch yesterday. Enlighten me.

"And do you know about our Vista phone service? There are two types... You can lease the cheaper one for \$6 a month. I am telling you this, Mr. Dubinsky, because I want you to know about all the services we have, because I see you have just a basic phone line."

It's confirmed – I am supposed to feel like a *Homo habilis* given a serendipitous chance at life with the Jetsons. Sorry, but I'm a diehard self-abnegist. On my priority list, upgrading my phone line comes somewhere after buying a private jet and before

subscribing to the National Post. But before I can get a word in edgewise, there's more.

"Can I ask you what rate you are getting from your new long-distance provider? I am asking because someone in our long-distance department might be able to make some arrangements for you." Ahhhh: desperation. The saleswoman tacitly acknowledges that the deregulation of long-distance markets threatens to bleed Bell blue. Sadly, the second operator cannot make any "arrangements" for me, probably because my new rates undercut Bell's by 50 per cent.



ZACHSKY

As soon as the first call ends, I place a second one to the telesales manager. I express my admonition at the shameless and evangelical (yes, I actually said "evangelical") approach of the saleswoman I dealt with.

It was a waste of my time. I was being hassled, pressured, denigrated, etc.

The manager's reply still shocks me (here, as above, I paraphrase): "We are just doing this for you because we are trying to help you pay less for your phone, so you can get rid of any extra services that you don't need." Get rid of unneeded services? She seems to miss the point that I couldn't possibly have any services that I myself didn't ask for in the first place (unless, of course, Bell was practising negative advertising, a legal no-no since 1997).

Really now, I'm no linguist, but like to think I got the gist of the exhaustive sales pitch I underwent: you live in the Stone Age, Mr. Dubinsky. You should buy more of our services to keep abreast of modern life.

Next week, I'll offer my analysis of why Bell and other companies feel compelled to force their services on post-Industrial consumers like myself. In the meantime, my fire's gone out and I need a new flint.

## Keep Canada Canadian, Please

hyde-park



BY AMIR BAR-DOR

I sat on the couch a few nights ago and turned on the news. There on the screen, Ottawa Senators' President Rod Bryden was whining that taxes in Canada are just too high and that his team can't compete with American hockey teams. You know what? He's right.

Earlier in the day, I read a long piece in the newspaper about university-educated professionals leaving Canada. Taxes are too high, they complained, and American companies were offering sky-high salaries. The Canadian corporations just can't compete, the article stated. You know what? They're right.

To add that extra "oomph" to my symbol-laden day, I picked up a copy of *The Daily Canadian* universities are in serious financial trouble. If the government doesn't increase funding to the educational system, universities won't be able to compete with their cousins down south. Ding! Correct once again.

Compete. We must compete. We must beat the Americans. We must beat the Americans at the game of capitalism.

As if.

The chances of us beating the Americans at that fun, family game called cut-throat capitalism are about as good as Detroit going a week without a murder. The US simply has too many people, too much practice, and way too many nuclear weapons. Which begs the question: why are we trying?

Believe me, I know the United States, I've been to the United States, and, ladies and gentlemen, we are better than the United States. That said, is there a chance of keeping Canada Canadian, or are we doomed to become a softer, poorer, medically insured version of the Great Republic to the south?

If we do decide to hold on to our Canadian ideals and fight off the fashionable trend towards Americanization, we might just have to say:

"I know we might not be able to make our deficit target this year, but here's some more money for hospitals and nurses," or "I know we might not be able to make our deficit target this year, but at least we don't have a substandard education system."

Are we crazy? Sure, if we hold on to our Canadian ideals we might not have to ship cancer patients to American hospitals. Sure, we might not have waiting lists for surgery and we might have an amazing educational system but for the love of God, we won't make our deficit target!

That would be tragic.



# Art Imitating Life

*Exhibit at Contemporary Art Museum is thought-provoking*

BY ALEX AYLETT

In most cases, art, like pro football, is a spectator sport. You go, you watch, you cheer or boo, and you leave. The interaction with what you see is minimal, your effect on it is even less.

Three exhibits presently at the Contemporary Art Museum invite you to take an active role. Showing primarily works from the past decade, the three exhibits have little in common other than their desire to directly involve the visitor.

The first is a retrospective of dark theatrical sculptures by Quebecois artist Roland Poulin. Beside it is *Around Memory and Archive* featuring works on these themes from the museum's collection, and finally *Head Over Heels: A Work of Impertinence* which assembles funny and playful works by 23 Canadian and international artists.

Cited as one of Quebec's most important sculptors, Roland Poulin has been exhibiting in Montreal since 1970. The 10 works in this exposition span the past decade, and bring together both

sculpture and drawing.

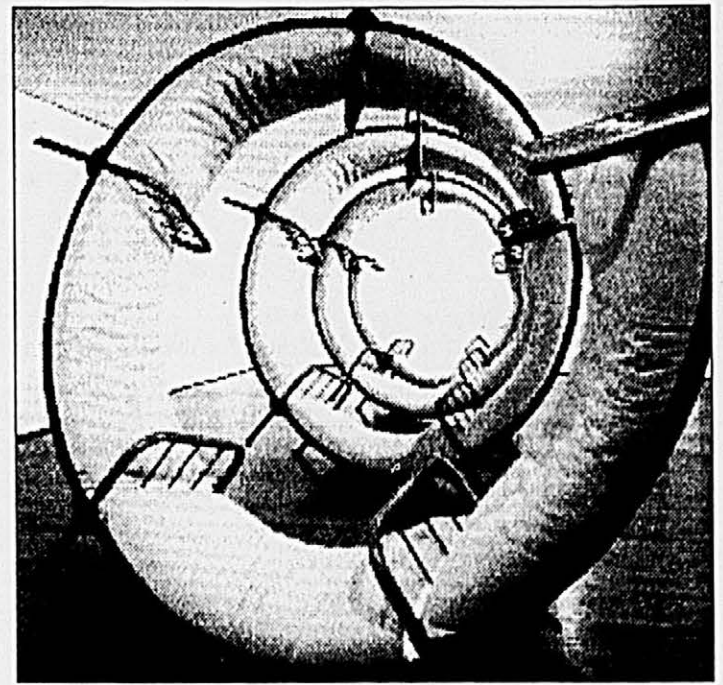
Entering the exhibit, the first thing that you notice is sparseness — the solid black structures seem to furnish the space, like furniture or theatre sets. They transform the space around them. A partially obscured staircase seems to descend through the floor into darkness, a modified crucifix exhales the air of Calvary, and a large box is tilted precariously on stilts. While they are static in space, they evolve

of sculpture is space. For him "meaning never comes before experience, temporal experience." With closer inspection, subtleties emerge and these large pieces of wood seem more solid than the room around them. You are conscious of the pressure of the floor under your feet, but also afraid that it might break underneath your feet as it appears to do beneath the works around you.

The two crowning works of *Around Memory and Archive* are Thomas Coriveau's short film *Kichappé* and Arnaud Maggs' *Joseph Bueys: 100 Frontal Views*. The film centers on the themes of abduction and amnesia, and is introduced by a room full of documents used during its making. Depending on how you interact with them, parts of the film will seem more familiar than you would expect. Maggs' work, like Poulin's, also evolves as the visitor observes it, revealing an infinity of differences between seemingly identical photographs.

The final exhibit *Head Over Heels* is an irreverent collection of video art, inter-

active sculpture, painting, and installation spewing installation *We Are In Kyoto*

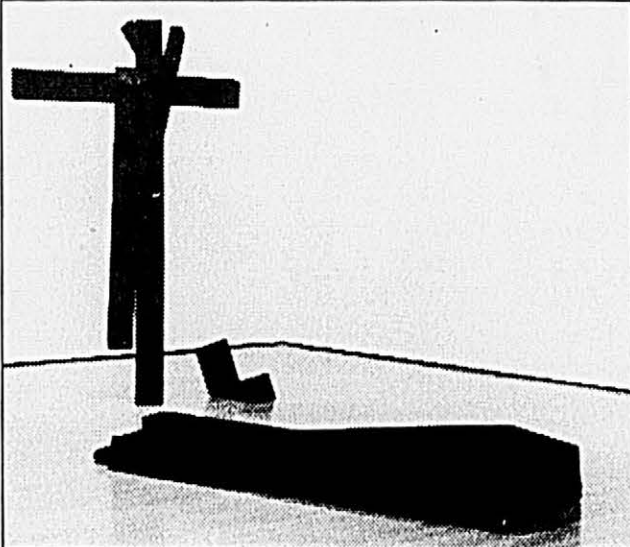


pieces. Robert Therrien's untitled curled metal beds have become the poster piece for this exhibit, and its bizarre humor embodies the spirit of the show. Andrea Zittel presents us with three automobile-sized prairie dogs which you are invited to climb inside of. Once inside, all your noises are broadcast through a speaker set in the animal's nose.

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov's confetti

focuses on your experiences inside it (bring a friend). Video pieces by Manon Labrecque and Sylvie Laliberté, among others, continue in the same vane — making fun of art and life.

All three 185 St. Catherine W. exhibits are presently showing at the Musée d'art Contemporain de Montreal, located at 185 St. Catherine W. Admission is \$3 for

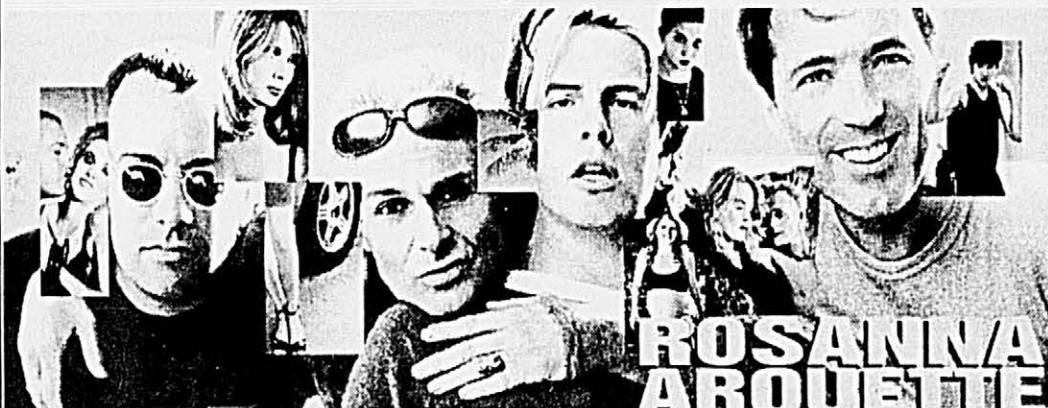


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## CD REVIEW

**TO THE TEETH**  
ANI DIFRANCO  
(RIGHTEOUS BABE RECORDS/FESTIVAL)



Ani DiFranco never fails in keeping her fans on their toes. With the recent release of *To The Teeth*, DiFranco manages to reinvent her sound while maintaining the same skillful guitar playing and brilliant poetry that has graced her music over the past decade. The album, beautifully mixed and produced by DiFranco herself, experiments with obscure rhythms and funky melody lines that are bound to make your feet move and your ears happy.

Known for her reputation as a politically driven songwriter, the title track of her new recording, "To the Teeth," ridicules gun control laws in the US and its effects on American youth. The song points in part to last year's Columbine massacre. Similarly, "Hello Birmingham" addresses the fight for pro-choice and the bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic in 1998.

Only now, with her live album *Living in Clip* reaching gold status, DiFranco is earning the recognition she deserves. In an interview for *Downbeat* last November, DiFranco explained, "I've come to a really wonderful place in my life where the shows are big enough that I can start making my own choices about who I'd like to travel with. Why not call up your heroes and see what they're doing in a couple months?" This explains how she hooked up with her idol, Maceo Parker, for last year's summer tour. DiFranco's success has not only benefited her touring career, but her recording career as well. Despite the conspicuous absence of DiFranco's faithful drummer, Andy Stochansky, *To The Teeth* bears the names of many other talented musicians, including rapper Corey Parker, Maceo Parker, the trumpet of Irving Mayfield, and even a cameo by the artist formerly known as Prince.

But don't think Ani is hiding behind good musicians. DiFranco shines in four solo tunes, backing her own vocal tracks with guitars, bass, drums, piano, organ, and banjo. One of the industry's most prolific recording artists, DiFranco's *To The Teeth* was the second album released in 1999, and her 14th overall. With no sign of letting up, DiFranco's *To The Teeth* represents a musical turning point for this folk-turned-funk diva.

—Reiko Waisglass

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